

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 17, and 28 to 34, claims 18 to 27 are pending and being considered in the present application, since claims 1 to 16 were previously canceled. No new claims are added. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 26 and 27 include allowable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 26 (from which claim 27 depends) has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of its base claim. The Examiner will further note that each of claims 18 to 25 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 26. Accordingly, claims 18 to 27 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claims have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the remaining claim rejections.

Accordingly, all of pending claims 18 to 27 are allowable.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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